

Commission in 1985. As a part of the 1985 inventory, three classes of wildlife habitat were identified: Class I (high-value) wildlife habitat, Class II (medium-value) wildlife habitat, and Class III (other significant) wildlife habitat. Class I habitat areas contain a good diversity of wildlife, are adequate in size to meet all of the habitat requirements for the species concerned, and are generally located in proximity to other wildlife habitat areas. Class II wildlife habitat areas generally lack one of the three criteria for Class I wildlife habitat. However, they do retain a good plant and animal diversity. Class III wildlife habitat areas are remnant in nature in that they generally lack two of the three criteria for a Class I wildlife habitat, but may, nevertheless, be important if located in proximity to high- or medium-value wildlife habitat areas, if they provide corridors linking higher-value wildlife habitat areas, or if they provide the only available range in the area.

Wildlife habitat areas encompassed a combined area of 182 square miles, or 31 percent of the total area of the County in 1985. As indicated on Map 26, these areas are concentrated on the Kettle Moraine, in the Vernon Marsh, along Scuppernong Creek and the Scuppernong River, and around the major lakes in the County. As indicated in Table 37, Class I wildlife habitat encompassed 88 square miles, or 49 percent of total wildlife habitat; Class II wildlife habitat encompassed 61 square miles, or 33 percent of total wildlife habitat; and Class III wildlife habitat encompassed 33 square miles, or 18 percent of total wildlife habitat.

NATURAL RESOURCE BASE RELATED ELEMENTS

Natural resource base related elements include major park and open space sites, historic sites, and natural area sites. These sites and areas, while not strictly defined as part of the natural resource base, are generally linked to, and encompass parts of, that underlying natural resource base. Such sites and areas are described in this section.

Major Park and Open Space Sites

The large State- and County-owned park and open space sites, as well as certain large City parks in Waukesha County, generally provide a wide variety of natural resource-related outdoor recreation facilities serving residents throughout the County. In addition, these large sites serve to protect natural resources and often encompass significant

Table 37

WILDLIFE HABITAT IN WAUKESHA COUNTY: 1985

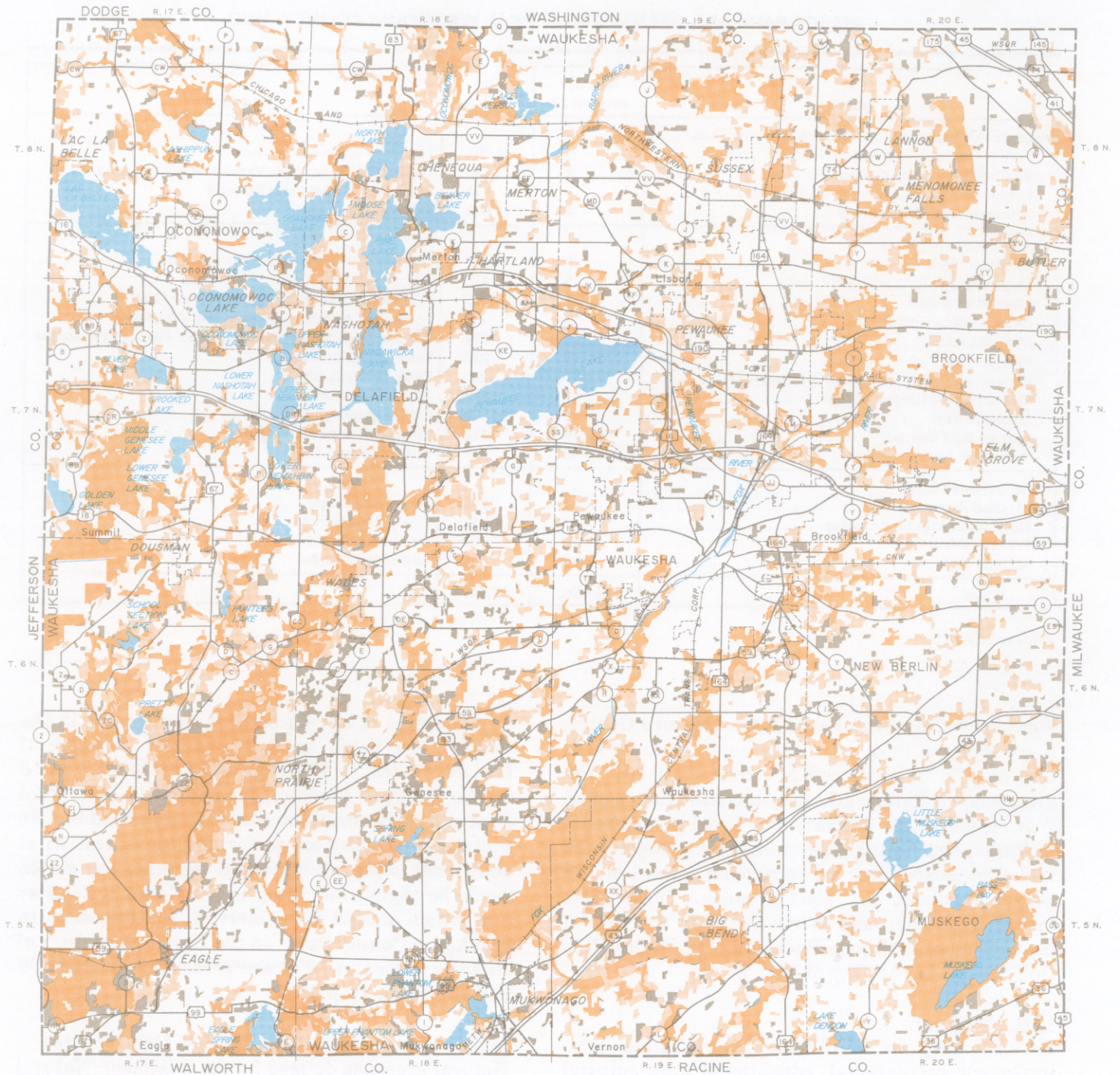
Class of Wildlife Habitat	Area Encompassed		
	Square Miles	Percent of Total Wildlife Habitat	Percent of Total Area of County
Class I (high-value)	88.4	48.6	15.2
Class II (medium-value)	60.1	33.1	10.4
Class III (other significant)	33.2	18.3	5.7
Total Wildlife Habitat	181.7	100.0	31.3
Not Wildlife Habitat	398.9	--	68.7
Total	580.6	--	100.0

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat within the primary environmental corridors in the County. Such sites have been termed major park and open space sites, defined as those sites 100 acres or larger in area. Information on the major park and open space sites in the County is presented in this section. It is important to note that, while the smaller, less than 100-acre, municipal park and open space sites provide outdoor recreation facilities such as ball diamonds and play areas, such sites generally serve local urban community and neighborhood areas and generally do not encompass significant natural resources. Therefore, while these sites are important in meeting local outdoor recreation and open space needs, detailed information on them was not considered necessary for the preparation of the County development plan.

As shown on Map 27 and indicated in Table 38, there were 19 major public park and open space sites encompassing a combined total of 17,348 acres, or about 27 square miles, in Waukesha County in 1993. These sites represented about 5 percent of the total area of the County. As further shown on Map 27, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources maintained four major park and open space sites encompassing about 13,645 acres, or about 21 square miles, in Waukesha County. These sites included the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit, Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area; Kettle Moraine State Forest-Lapham Peak Unit; and Scuppernong Wildlife Area. Waukesha County maintained 11 major park and open space sites encompassing a combined total of 2,977 acres, or about 4.7 square miles. These sites included Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Mukwonago Park, Mus-

WILDLIFE HABITAT IN WAUKESHA COUNTY: 1985



LEGEND

- CLASS I WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA
- CLASS II WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA
- CLASS III WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA
- SURFACE WATER

NOTE: WILDLIFE HABITAT WITHIN LAKES OF WAUKESHA COUNTY CONSISTS OF DEEP MARSH AREAS HAVING SUBMERGENT, EMERGENT FLOATING, AND FREE-FLOATING VEGETATION.

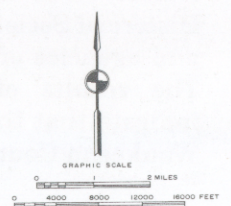


Table 38

MAJOR PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN WAUKESHA COUNTY: 1993

Name	Number on Map 27	Area (acres)	Location
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Sites			
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit	1	8,751	Towns of Eagle and Ottawa
Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area	2	3,634	Towns of Mukwonago, Vernon, and Waukesha
Kettle Moraine State Forest-Lapham Peak Unit	3	671	Towns of Delafield and Summit
Scuppernong Wildlife Area	4	589	Town of Eagle
Waukesha County Sites			
Nashotah Park	5	444	Town of Merton, Village of Nashotah
Naga-Waukee Park and Golf Course	6	416	City of Delafield, Town of Delafield
Menomonee Park	7	397	Villages of Lannon and Menomonee Falls
Retzer Nature Center	8	338	Towns of Delafield, Genesee, and Waukesha
Minooka Park	9	297	Cities of New Berlin and Waukesha, Town of Waukesha
Mukwonago Park	10	222	Town of Mukwonago
Winzenreid-Kuhtz property (undeveloped)	11	207	Town of Waukesha
Monches Park (undeveloped)	12	194	Town of Merton
Muskego Park	13	193	City of Muskego
Wanaki Golf Course	14	152	Village of Menomonee Falls
Ryan Park (undeveloped)	15	117	Town of Pewaukee
Locally Owned Sites			
Mitchell Park	16	265	City of Brookfield
New Berlin Hills Golf Course	17	181	City of New Berlin
Franklin Wirth Park	18	152	City of Brookfield
Malone Park	19	128	City of New Berlin
Total	19 sites	17,348	--

Source: SEWRPC.

kego Park, Nashotah Park, Retzer Nature Center, Naga-Waukee Park and Golf Course, Wanaki Golf Course, the undeveloped Monches Park site, the undeveloped Ryan Park site, and the undeveloped Winzenreid-Kuhtz property site. Local governments in Waukesha County maintained four major park and open space sites encompassing a total of 726 acres, or about 1.1 square miles. These sites included Mitchell and Wirth Parks in the City of Brookfield, and Malone Park and New Berlin Hills Golf Course in the City of New Berlin.

Historic Sites

Historic sites in Waukesha County often have important recreational, educational, and cultural value. A variety of inventories and surveys of sites that possess architectural, cultural, and archaeological value have been conducted by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and by various units and agencies of government in Waukesha County. The results of these inventories and surveys indicate that there are over 1,000 historic sites in Waukesha County.

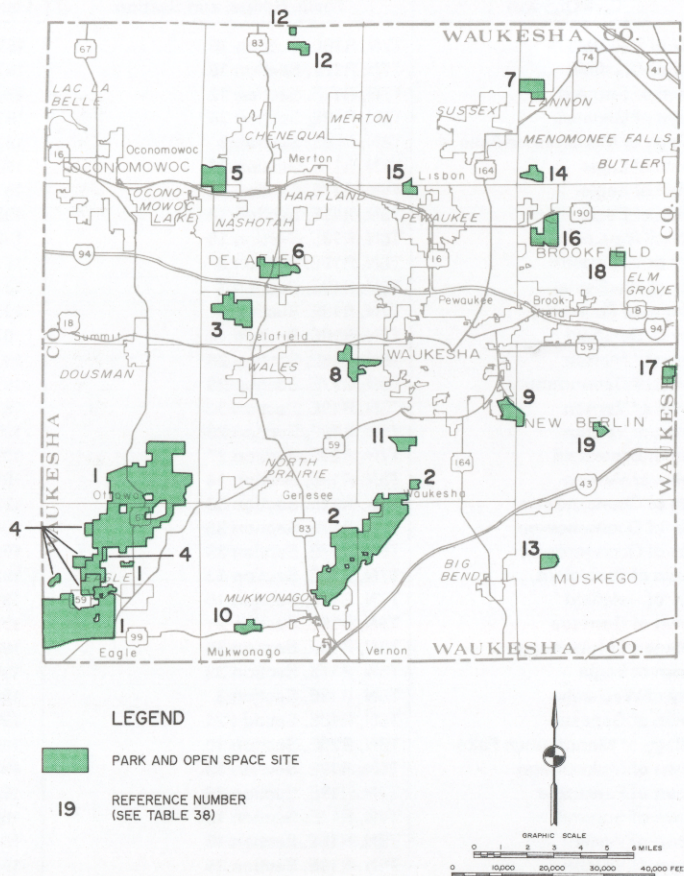
Certain sites of known historic significance in the County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1993, there were 124 sites listed on the National Register, including 112 individual sites and 12 historic districts. It is important to note that the potential exists for the identification of additional sites of historical significance which would be eligible for listing on the National Register and which should be preserved. Historic sites in Waukesha County listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 are presented in Table 39 and shown on Map 28.

Natural Area and Critical Species Habitat Sites

Natural areas, as defined by the Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council, are tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European settlement landscape. Natural areas are classified into one of the following three categories: natural area of statewide or greater

Map 27

**MAJOR PARK AND OPEN SPACE
SITES IN WAUKESHA COUNTY: 1993**



Source: SEWRPC.

significance (NA-1), natural area of countywide or regional significance (NA-2), or natural area of local significance (NA-3). Classification of an area into one of these three categories is based upon consideration of the diversity of plant and animal species and community types present; the structure and integrity of the native plant or animal community; the extent of disturbance by human activity, such as logging, grazing, water level changes, and pollution; the commonness of the plant and animal communities present; any unique natural features within the area; the size of the area; and the educational value.

A comprehensive inventory of natural area sites in Waukesha County was completed in 1994 by area naturalists and by the Regional Planning Commission staff. As indicated in Table 40 and shown on

Map 29, 105 natural area sites, encompassing a total of about 21.4 square miles, or 3.7 percent of the total area of the County, were identified in 1994.

The comprehensive inventory of natural area sites conducted in 1994 also identified a total of 59 critical species habitat sites within Waukesha County. Of these 59 sites, 23, or 40 percent, were located within a natural area and 36, or 60 percent, were located outside a natural area. Table 40 notes those natural areas which contain a critical species habitat site and also lists critical species habitat sites located outside natural areas. The 36 critical species habitat sites located outside natural areas are shown on Map 29 as encompassing a total of about 8.2 square miles, or 1.4 percent of the total area of the County.

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

One of the most important tasks completed under the regional planning program for Southeastern Wisconsin has been the identification and delineation of those areas in the Region in which concentrations of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base occur. It was recognized that preservation of such areas, especially where these elements are concentrated in identifiable geographic areas, is essential to both the maintenance of the overall environmental quality of the Region and to the continued provision of the amenities required to maintain a high quality of life for the resident population.

Under the regional planning program, seven elements of the natural resource base have been considered essential to the maintenance of the ecological balance, natural beauty, and overall quality of life in Southeastern Wisconsin: 1) lakes, rivers, and streams and their associated shorelands and floodlands, 2) wetlands, 3) woodlands, 4) prairies, 5) wildlife habitat areas, 6) wet, poorly drained, and organic soils, and 7) rugged terrain and high-relief topography. In addition, there are certain other features which, although not part of the natural resource base per se, are closely related to, or centered upon, that base and are a determining factor in identifying and delineating areas with recreational, aesthetic, ecological, and cultural value. These five additional elements are: 1) existing park and open space sites, 2) potential park and open space sites, 3) historic sites, 4) scenic areas and vistas, and 5) natural scientific area sites.